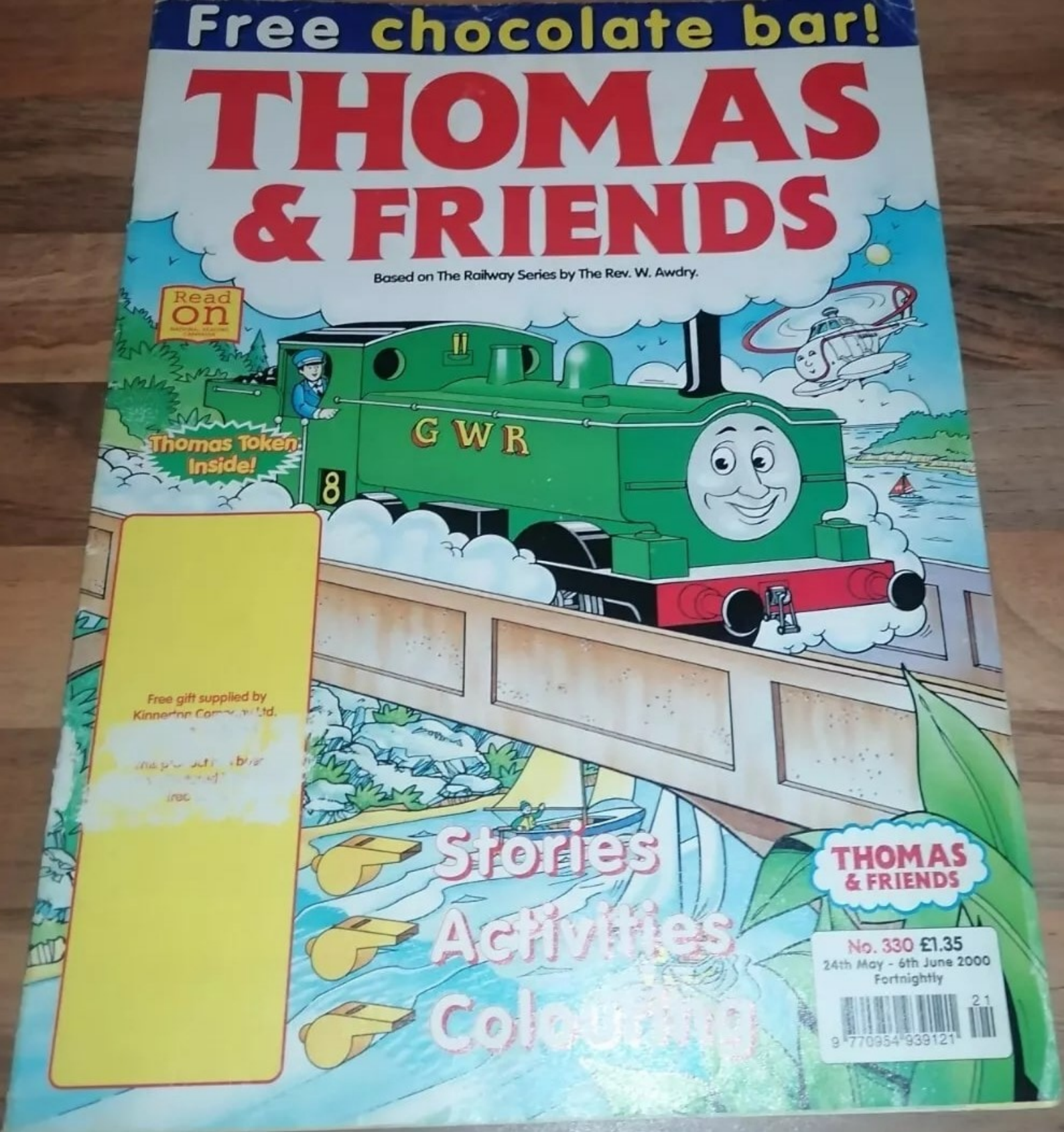
Free chocolate bar!

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Really Useful Reading with...

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

3. The Best Bridge
a story to read

8. Look and See
an activity in observation

10. Playground Fun
a rebus picture story

12. Engine Mix-up
a grouping and counting activity

13. Days Out with Thomas
a listing of days out near you

16. Story Puzzle
tell the story in the right order

18. So Much Stone
a rhyming story

22. All About Caroline
a chance to win an ERTL model

24. Old Bangers and Mash
a bedtime story

28. Dot to dot
join the dots to see the picture

30. Sodor Mail
your letters, drawings and photos

This comic belongs to:

fun to read together

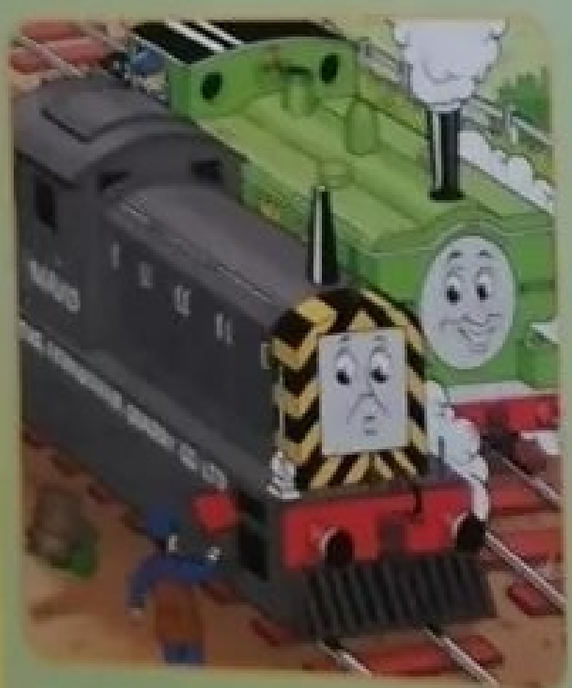
The Best Bridge

1. Duck felt Really Useful because he had his own branch line. But he was even prouder of a big bridge along it. He enjoyed puffing over it, above a river.

2. On clear days, Duck could see for miles. Below him, boats went to and fro. "I'm so high up, I feel as if I'm flying, like Harold the Helicopter!" Duck often laughed.

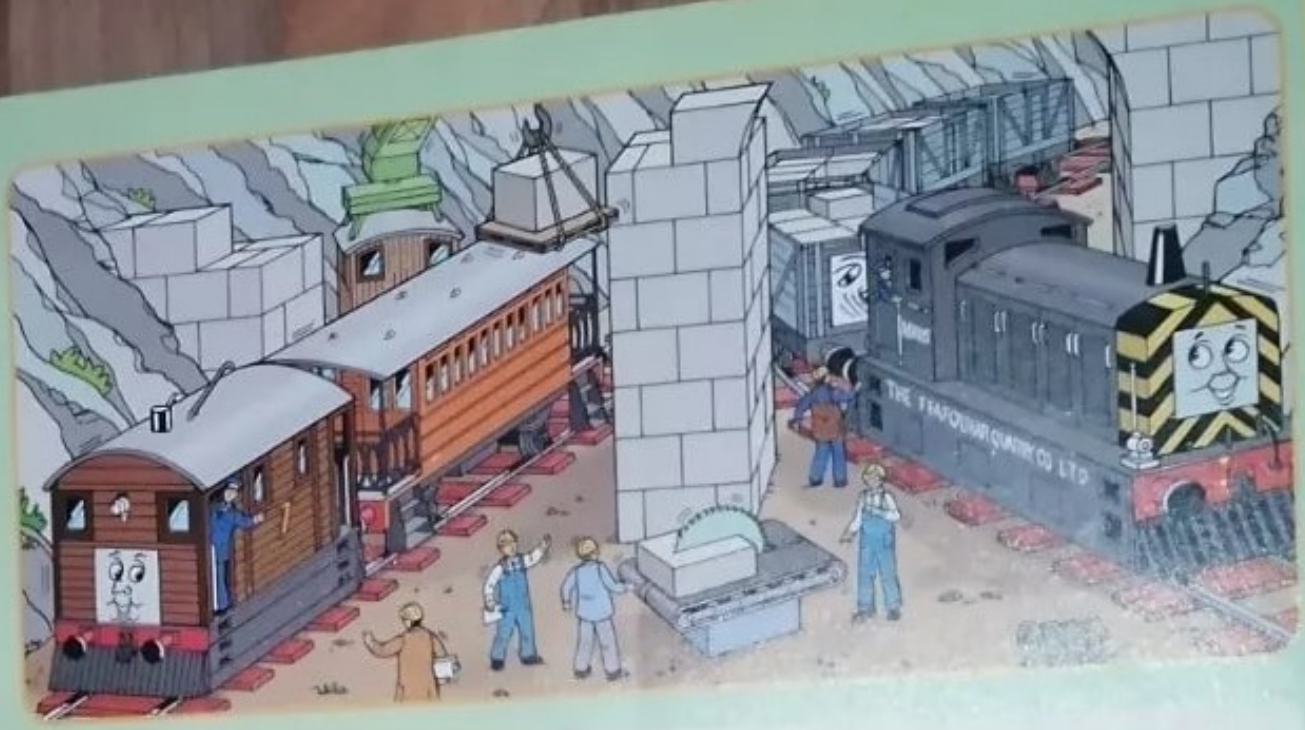
3. "It's the best bridge on Sodor!" he boasted to Thomas and the others, who were tired of hearing about it. They only had to say the word 'bridge' to start Duck talking.

4. One day, Mavis returned from the quarry and met Duck in the yard. "What a view from my bridge today," he puffed. "I saw a yacht, canoe and a river boat!"



5. "Lucky you!" said Mavis, sulkily. "It would make a change for me to see something interesting! I've just been stuck in a tunnel for ages!"

6. "Pity you haven't a bridge," smiled Duck. But the next week, Mavis was surprised when Toby and Henrietta brought workmen to the quarry line.



7. "What's going on?" called Mavis. "You mean what's going up?" joked Toby. Mavis was more puzzled when she had to deliver loads of stone to the workmen.

8. They had great fun helping to cut it into blocks. They used them to build the arches above the line. "It's going to be a bridge!" Toby told Mavis.

9. "Hurray!" she cried. "Wait till Duck hears!" But he just laughed. "I suppose any bridge is better than none," said Duck, "even if you won't see boats go under it!"

10. "I can see boats from my bridge. It's the best." boasted Duck. "River or no river, I'm really looking forward to a bridge on the quarry line!" thought Mavis.

11. It took a while to build. Just before the bridge was finished, Mavis was taken out of service for a check-up. She returned the day the bridge was opened.

12. Now Toby had to go to the Works, so Duck helped Mavis on the quarry line. They were amazed as they went under the new bridge above the tracks.

13. "It's a very special bridge that carries water," said Mavis' driver. "It's called an aqueduct!" A long, boat was on it. "That's known as a narrowboat," the driver added.

14. "Now who has the best bridge," teased Mavis. "You have!" laughed Duck. "I've never seen a boat going **over** a railway line before!"

The End

Look and See!

SODOR
1. How many crates are there?
2. How many seagulls are there?
3. What number is Duck?
4. Point to the anchor.

Duck's working hard at the harbour.
Look at the picture, what can you see?

answers: 1. five 2. four 3. eight 4. between Duck and his truck.

rebus story

Playground Fun

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

roundabout turntable

James swings slide Thomas

see-saw truck children Percy

One windy day, chuffed by the playground. Boys and girls were playing on the , the and the . "If only I could join in!" he peeped. Later in the yard, Thomas spoke to about the playground. chuckled, "There's a where those leaky oil wagons used to be!" braked hard and slid!

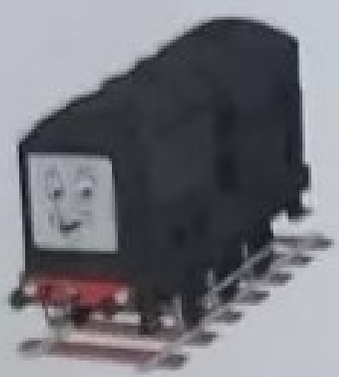
Thomas chuckled, "My turn next!"

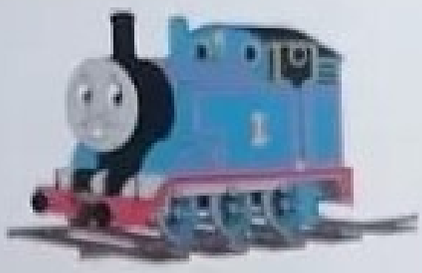
heard about the and wanted to join in, "Come on, Thomas, I'll show you my !" he whistled.

Moments later, was on the . It was so windy that he was blown round and round. and had a wonderfully [illegible] that day, and was sent [illegible] to rescue a derailed . As the truck was lifted it swung backwards and forward in the air and grinned, "You should have a go on the !" The Fat Controller butted in sternly, "Playgrounds are for boys and girls, not engines. If you like playgrounds so much you should slow down and watch the in the park! answered cheekily, "We do, that's where our ideas come from!" When he returned to the shed that night he joked with and . "Now what could we use for a ?" **The End**

Engine mix-up!

It's time for inspection. Diesels must go first, and then steam engines. Can you help The Fat Controller get them into order by drawing a circle around all the diesels, and then the steam engines.





1. How many groups have you made?

2. How many blue steam engines are there?

3. How many green diesels are there?

4. Who has not been circled?

Answers: 1. two 2. two 3. one 4. Bertie and The Fat Controller

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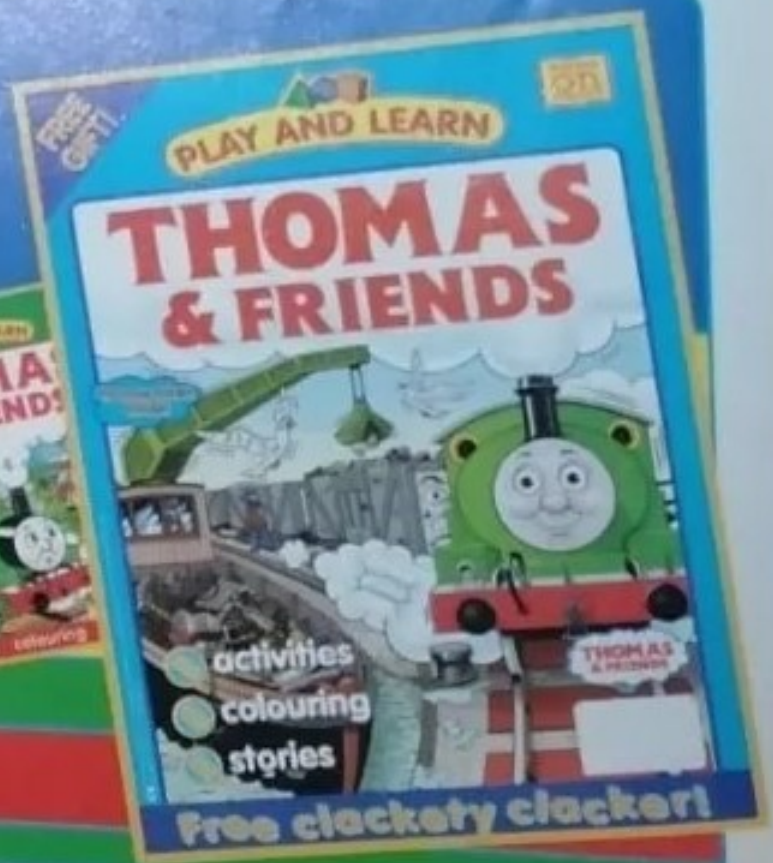

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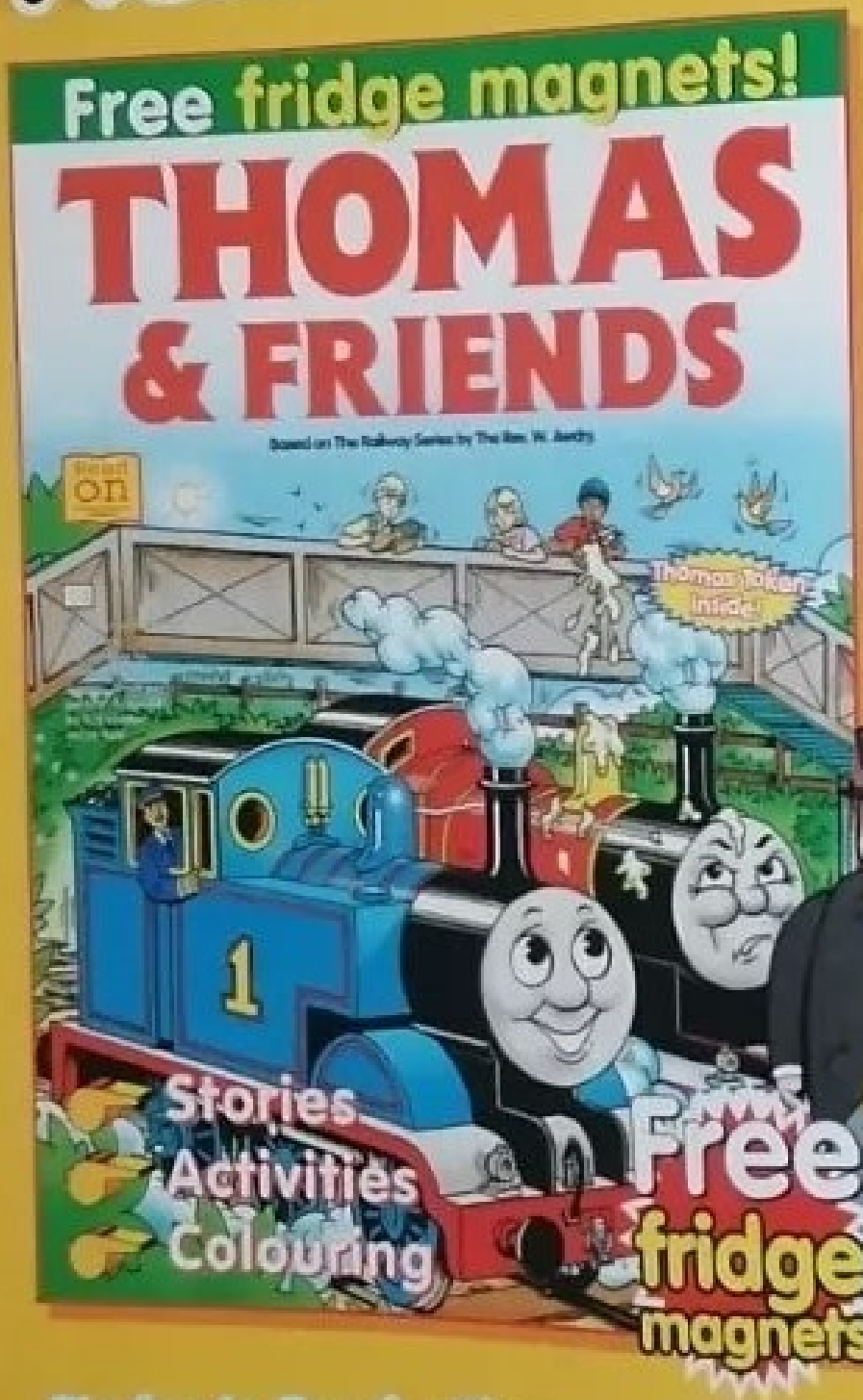

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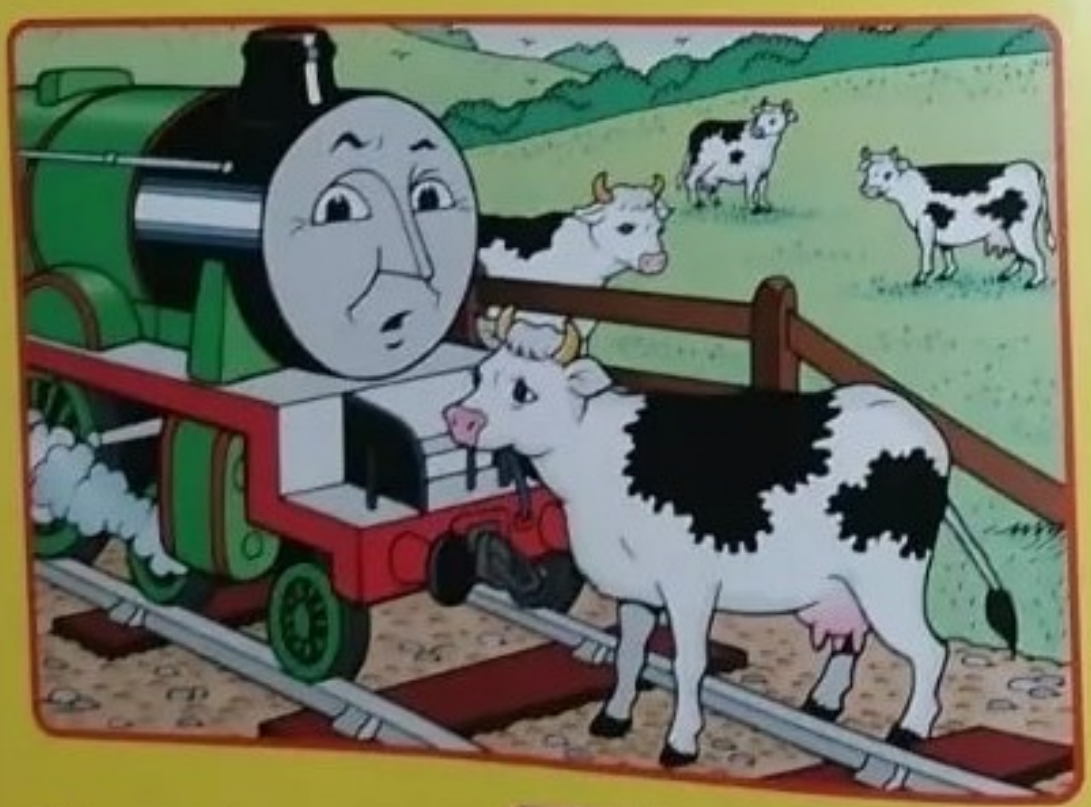
Story puzzle

1

3

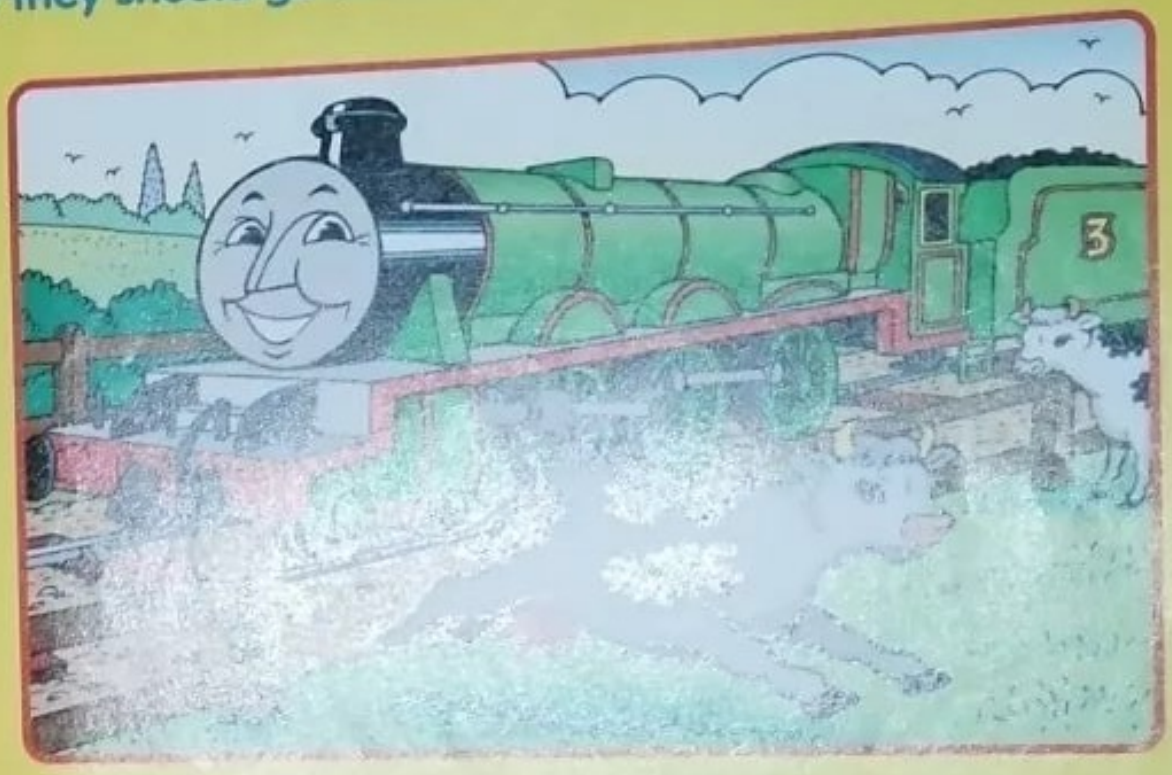


The right order is

ANSWER: 4, 3, 1, 2

Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in. Then tell the story yourself.

2



4

How many cows are in picture 4?

answer: three

Thomas' rhyme time!

So Much Stone!

Her trucks all loaded at the quarry,
Carrying much more than a lorry,
Mavis slowly pulled away,
Another load, another day!
She liked her work and did it well,
"I'm Really Useful!" she would yell.

But Diesel made her change her mind,
He always liked to be unkind.
Diesel, too, pulled a great weight,
From the harbour, he brought freight.
The goods had come from a ship's hold,
All sorts of things soon to be sold.

Sand and [illegible] Diesel in his oily voice.
As usual [illegible] useless rock and stone,
"Poor Mavis, [illegible] were you I'd really moan!"

"I shall!" sulked
Mavis gloomily,

"I'll go on strike now.
Just you see!

"I want a different
load to pull,

Like fish, or grain,
or coal or wool!"

But Mavis heard her
driver call,

He pointed to a
dry-stone wall.

When Mavis passed a smart town square,
She saw a big stone statue there,
Then, in the park, a rockery,
Mavis laughed, "Oh, silly me!
Quarry stone has lots of uses,
Now, back to work! No more excuses!"

The End

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All about

Caroline has a very gentle nature. She doesn't like being driven too fast as her engine is very delicate. She prefers to drive along narrow country roads where she can only go very slowly. She loves picnics as she can be parked for a long time and is able to enjoy the lovely countryside.

Caroline

Win a model of Caroline!

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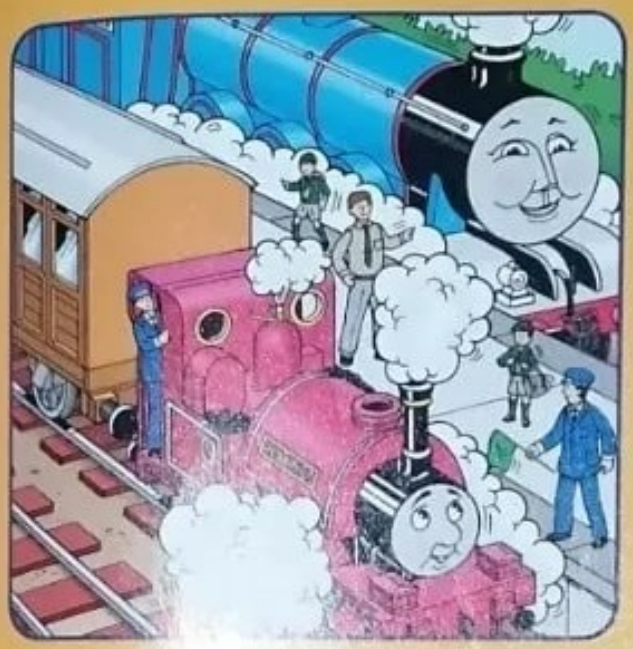
percy's bedtime story

Old Bangers and Mash

1. One morning, a pack of cub scouts boarded Gordon's carriages. Their leader called, "We're cooking outside later. Have you remembered the sausages?"

2. Gordon's driver grinned to the cub leader, "Sounds like bangers and mash for dinner. It's always a favourite with cub packs when they have outdoor adventures!"



3. Skarloey was waiting at the junction with the mountain railway and all the cubs changed trains excitedly. "All aboard!" whistled the old engine.

4. As he set off, Skarloey puffed, "A trainload of cubs and the wind against me, it's going to be a hard ride up the mountain!" Then rain started to fall.

5. The cubs looked eagerly out of the windows. "A spot of rain won't hurt, we're going to put up a tent and we'll do our cooking there!" grinned one of them.

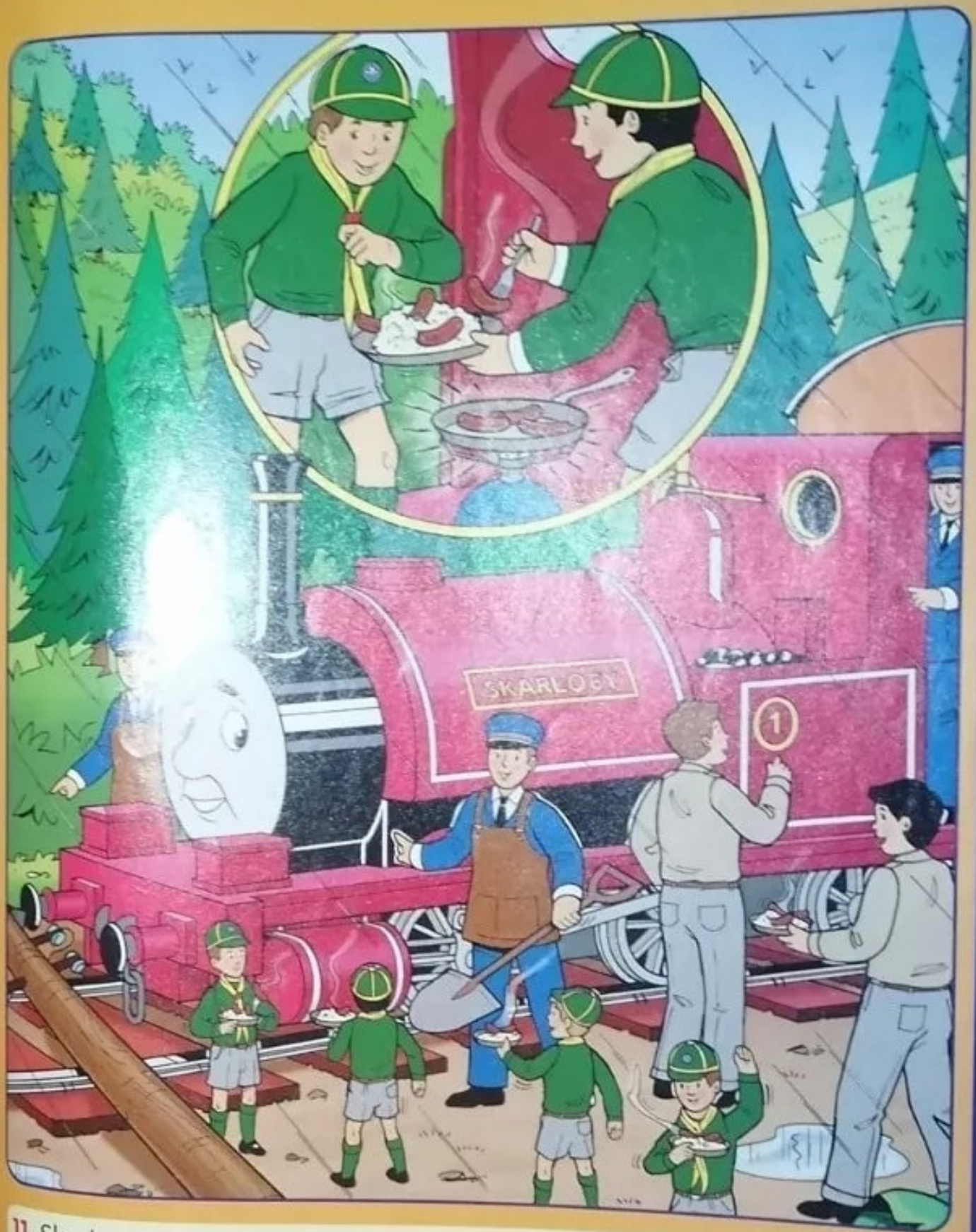
6. The track grew steeper. Suddenly Skarloey saw a telegraph pole on the track. He braked hard. "Where did that come from!" he cried.

7. "It's been blown down by this wind!" exclaimed his driver, "Now we're stuck! We need someone to go all the way back to the junction to telephone for help!"

8. The cubs soon heard what ha happened and two of them and leader set off down the line whil the rest were told to wait with the other leader in their carriages.

9. After a while the boys became impatient. "Come and have a look around Skarloey's cab, I'll show you how he works!" said the driver. "Two at a time, please!"

10. The first boys walked up the line to Skarloey and climbed onto the footplate. One of them put his backpack down with a clank. "That's my frying pan," he said.



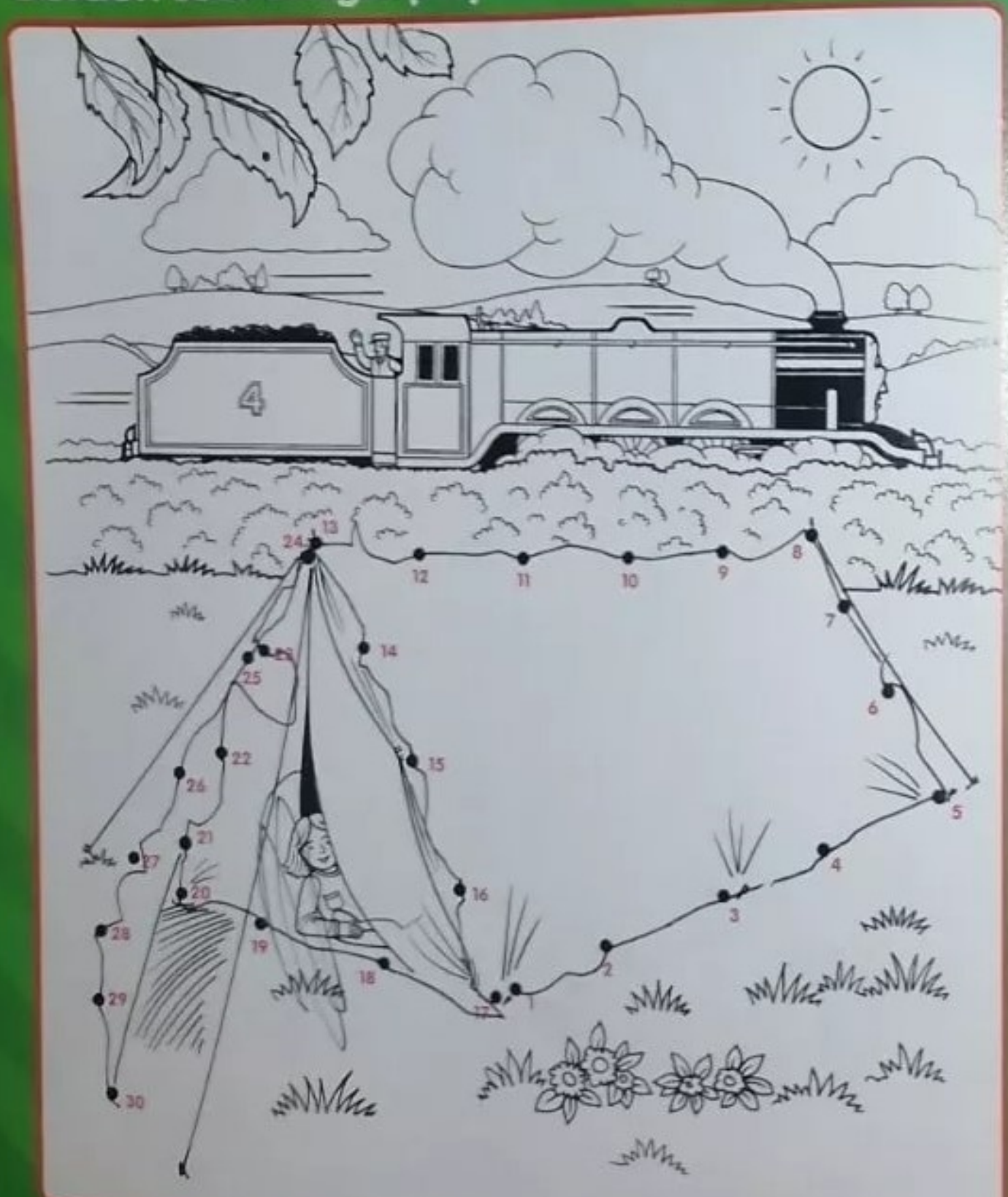
11. Skarloey's driver said, "That reminds me, it's nearly lunchtime! I wouldn't say no to bangers and mash myself!" The boys took over Skarloey's cab as their kitchen!

12. Soon the rescue team arrived. Skarloey's driver laughed, "When the other engines hear about this, they're going to call you, 'Old Bangers and Mash'!"

The End

Dot to Dot!

Gordon sees Bridget play on a lovely summer's day!



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

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Thomas Token

Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Can you tell me why Lord Harry has a face at the front and at the back? Is he the only engine to have two faces?
From Daniel Smith, aged 8.
Lord Harry runs on a rack rail up and down a steep mountain line. He has a face at the front and the back so that he can see well on the way up and back down again. The other engines with two faces are called Culdee and Godred.

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a Thomas Big Set from Tomy as a prize!
Trust TOMY.

Iouan Jones, aged 5.

Thomas Smith, aged 2.

Thomas, by David Payne, aged 8.

Daisy, by Katie Milano, aged 6.

Thomas pulling trucks, by Daniel Ward, aged 3.

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a remote control Thomas from Racing Champions!

Happy birthday!

To
Elliot Maynard, aged 4,
Oliver Maynard, aged 4,
Luke Breen, aged 5,
Bradley Abbott, aged 3,
Eiddon Edwards, aged 4,
Oliver Windle, aged 4,
Alexander Kelly, aged 2,
Daniel Hadwin, aged 3,
Gavin Tucker, aged 5,
Ben Davidson, aged 3,
Matthew Kavanagh, aged 8,
Alexander Royal, aged 4.
and belated birthday wishes to:
Kyle Brewis, aged 3,
James Hichens, aged 3,
Jacob Tobias, aged 5,
Pablo Segona, aged 4,
Samuel Henshall, aged 3,
William Eardley, aged 8,
Jan Mietlewski, aged 2.

Christian Rogers, aged 3.

Kieran Tyner, aged 3.

Callum Hall, aged 3.

Bradley Osborne, aged 3.

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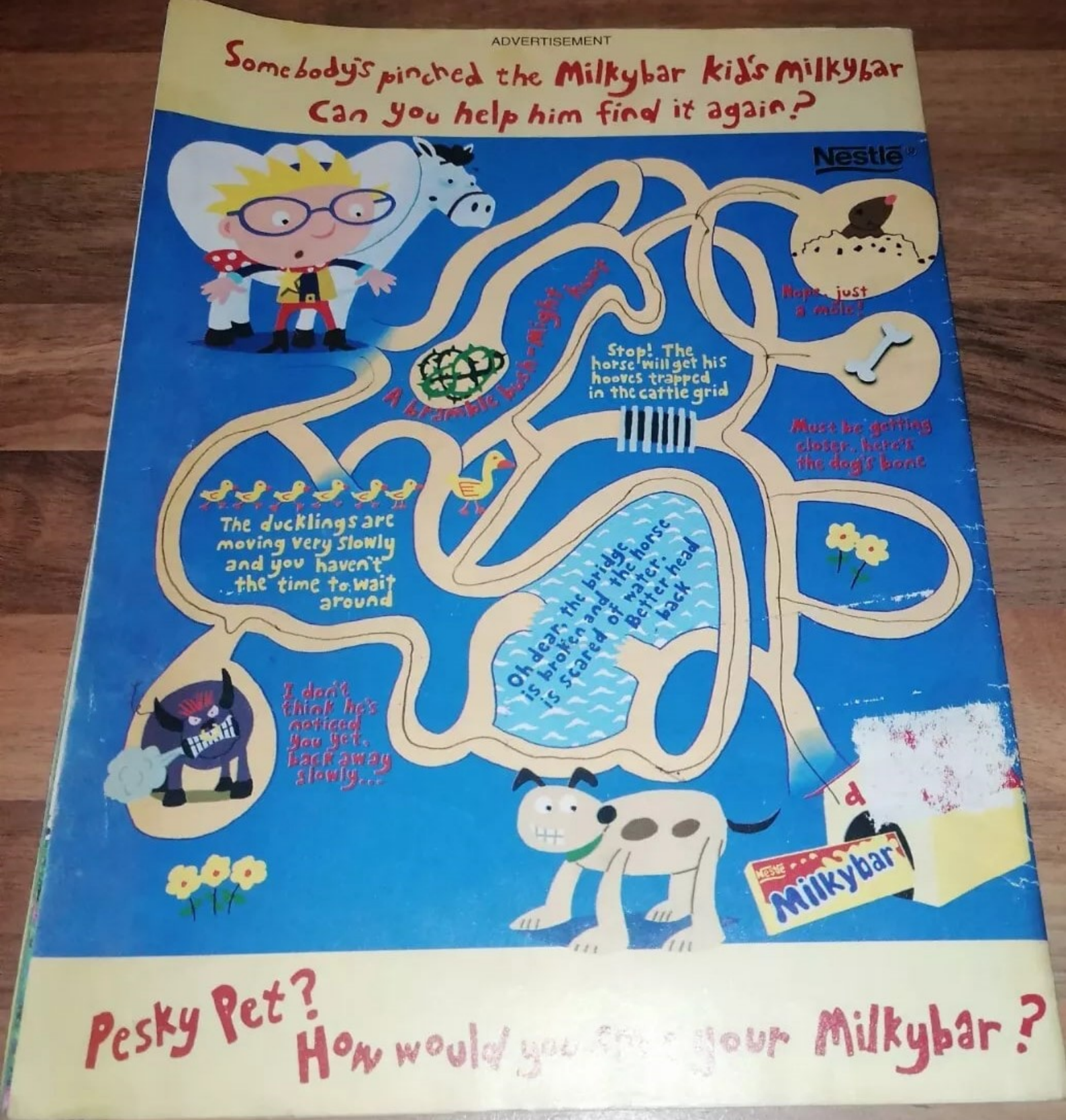
Somebody's pinched the Milkybar kid's Milkybar
Can you help him find it again?


Nestlé
Nope, just a mole!
A brambly bush - might hurt
Stop! The horse will get his hooves trapped in the cattle grid
Must be getting closer, here's the dog's bone
The ducklings are moving very slowly and you haven't the time to wait around
Oh dear, the bridge is broken and the horse is scared of water. Better head back
I don't think he's noticed you yet. Back away slowly...
Milkybar

Pesky Pet? How would you [illegible] your Milkybar?